18th August 1925]

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"From the fact that these days are public holidays arises the inference that the Government is not in favour of courts being held on such days."

*Disposal of certain cases by the Subordinate Judge of South Kanara.*

*4 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the procedure adopted by the Sub-Judge of South Kanara, Mangalore, of disposing of most of the contested petitions and miscellaneous work in his chambers and not in open court;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Judge gets parties declared ex parte not in his presence but by the clerk concerned even before he comes to court;

(c) at what time the said Sub-Judge comes to the Bench daily and at what time he leaves the court; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Sub-Judge comes to the Bench very irregularly, even as late as 2 or 2–30 p.m.?

A.—The Government have no information but are causing enquiries to be made.

*The creation of a new post of "Master" in the High Court.*

*5 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is proposed to create a new post of a 'Master' in the High Court at Madras;

(b) if so, what is the need for it and what is the scope of his powers and duties; and

(c) whether the Registrar cannot cope with the duties for which the 'Master' is being created?

A.—The matter is under the consideration of Government.

*Period of stay permitted to certain officers in one station.*

*6 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of years during which (1) a Deputy Collector, (2) a District Munsif, (3) a Tahsildar, is ordinarily permitted to remain continuously in one station;

(b) whether short absences on leave during that period are held to constitute a break in their stay and whether the period during which such officers may normally stay in a station is counted again from their return to duty after the absence;

(c) whether enquiries are periodically made by district officers or others as to whether after their first appointment to a station they have many relations in their own or allied departments or have contracted debts or acquired landed properties within their jurisdiction; and

(d) whether all these facts are taken into account in posting officers or transferring them from station to station?

A.—(a) There are no hard-and-fast rules on the subject. Ordinarily opportunity is taken, when transfers have to be made, to move officers who have been three years at one station.

(b) No.

(c) Annual returns of landed property or interest in landed property possessed by them are submitted by the three classes of officers. Periodical inquiries are made regarding relatives of district munsifs but not about their debts within their jurisdiction. No special inquiries are made in the case of deputy collectors or tahsildars.

(d) Yes, so far as information is available.

## Criminal Justice.

*Alleged communal troubles in Maruthavakudi.*

* 7 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that two criminal cases have recently been filed in the Tiruvadamarudur Sub-Magistrate's Court, Kumbakonam taluk, one by the Adi-Dravidas of Maruthuvakudi against the caste people of the same village and the other by the caste people against the Adi-Dravidas;

(b) whether it is a fact that the caste Hindus of Maruthuvakudi unlawfully prevented Adi-Dravidas from driving carts through the public street of the said caste Hindus;

(c) whether it is a fact that the caste Hindus took the earliest opportunity and lodged a complaint alleging that a cart belonging to Adi-Dravidas ran over a kid which subsequently died;

(d) whether the police knew anything about the matter; and

(e) if the Government have no information with reference to clauses (a) to (d), whether they will be pleased to call for the same?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have no information.

(e) The Government do not consider it necessary or desirable to intervene, on the facts implied in the question as to matters which are now before the courts.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether the incident mentioned in clause (b), viz., whether it is a fact that the caste Hindus of Maruthuvakudi unlawfully prevented Adi-Dravidas from driving carts through the public street of the caste Hindus,' is also before the court?"

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Various allegations and counter-allegations have been made to the authorities who are making a judicial investigation at the present moment, and therefore it is that the Government cannot say anything more definitely."

## Irrigation.

*Applications for water in the villages under the Periyar system.*

* 8 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the information required with regard to question No. 684, dated 27th March 1925, regarding applications for water in the villages of the Periyar system has been obtained and, if so, whether the hon. Member will be pleased to lay it on the table;